Jaipaiguri. There is no proposal at present to construct a new kitchen at Guwahati.

(b) New Jalpaiguri Base Kitchen has been constructed at an estimated cost of Rs. 10.7 lakhs.

(c) Northeast Frontier Railway is not managing any Pantry car service departmentally.

(d) The Base Kitchen at New Jaipaiguri supplies meals on trains having no pantry car service, and also on trains of other Railways with departmental pantry car service passing through New Jaipaiguri.

Pantry car service in 509/510 Avadh Assam Mail

1228. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the pantry car service in 509/510 Avadh-Assam Mail has been given to a private caterer by N. F. Railways;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government propose to start a departmental pantry car in newly operated weekly Howrah-Cochin Express ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) It has been decided to manage the proposed pantry car service by 509/510 Avadh-Assam Express through a licensed contractor. The allotment of pantry car contract has not yet been finalised.

(b) The departmental management is not feasible due to ban on creation of posts.

(c) It is proposed to introduce pantry car service by Cochin-Howrah Express, as and when new pantry cars become available. No decision has been taken to manage this pantry car service departmentally.

Handling of liquid cargo at major ports

1229. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA :
SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) what is the criteria for the allotment of land to Parties for the storage and handling of liquid cargo at major ports;

(b) what criteria/guidelines are applied for allotment of land for varying periods of (i) one year, (ii) 30 years and (iii) over 30 years; and

(c) whether any deviations have been made in exceptional circumstances in the past from above criteria if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) to (c) No specific criteria for the allotment of land to parties for the storage and handling of liquid cargo at Major Ports has been laid down by the Government. Generally lands are given on lease to applicants after taking into accounts the availability of land, the likelihood of Port requiring the land in the short or long term, the need to encourage traffic through the port and related factors. If the lease is required for more than 30 years prior approval of Central Government is required.

Extension of Rajkot-Ahmedabad inter city express upto Vadodara

1230. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA :
SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any request for extending Rajkot-Ahmedabad inter city express upto Vadodara; if so, what are the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Gujarat Express takes less than nine hours to travel the distance between Ahmedabad and Bombay while another express train, Saurashtra Express takes more than thirteen hours to reach Bombay after its arrival at Ahmedabad from Gujarat; and

(c) whether Railways have received any complaint regarding the hardship caused to the long distance passengers of Saurashtra Express by the short distance commuters on Ahmedabad Bombay route; if so, what are the details thereof and the action taken or proposed to be taken by Railways in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) ...